

Governor's Task Force on Autism
June 7, 2004
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Linda Carmody, Kathy Draves, Rose Helms, Kevin Klatt, Diane Konkel, Deb Mandarino, Heather Marena, Paula Petit, Cynthia Thomas

Facilitator: Karen Timberlake

Staff: Donna Wong, Beth Wroblewski, Diane Welsh

Key Issues: Discussion of written materials, overview of current services, discussion of activities included in service time.

Discussion of written materials: Many task force members said that they did not have time to read the materials. Task force members asked if they could share the readings with professionals for summary purposes.

Action: Some members of the task force agreed to summarize the readings. Summaries will be forwarded to Donna who will e-mail to task force members.

Overview of current services: Beth Wroblewski from the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) presented information on Children's Long Term Support waivers and a description of services under the waiver. Questions regarding experimental treatment and case management were asked.

Action: DHFS will provide additional information in some areas (see below).

Discussion of activities included in service time: The task force identified the following problems during the discussion of activities included in service time under the in-home intensive component of program.

1. Travel time.
 - Counties assume ease of travel scheduling.
 - Rural issues – children far apart in county.
 - Inconsistent policies between counties.
 - No separate allowance for travel.
2. Overlap by team members. Team meetings counted in service time.
3. Inconsistent interpretation of collateral contact by counties.
4. Training for staff included in service time.
5. Hidden costs/coordination with counties/providers.
6. County case management for families who don't need it.

The task force brainstormed possible solutions including:

1. Send memo to counties clarifying how travel will be billed and definition of reimbursable collateral contact.
2. Share travel hours with families upon request.
3. Increase budget for travel.
4. Alternative funding sources for travel – foundations, other programs that focus on rural families.
5. Locate treatment more centrally (providers in schools).
6. Cluster post-intensive service providers. Share staff/cross provider training.
7. Reduce senior staff time.
8. Compensate providers for training.
9. Flexibility in treatment approaches – requirements to reduce need for travel.

Action: The task force will finish identifying solutions and form concrete recommendations at next meeting.

Preparation for Next Meeting: Agenda Items were not fully covered at the meeting. The task force discussed either adding more meetings or having an all-day meeting.

Action: The following tasks were assigned.

1. Kathy: Provide summary of articles.
2. Deb: Provide summary of articles.
3. Rose: Provide summary of articles.
4. Kevin: Provide summary of articles.
5. Donna: E-mail meeting minutes, revised agenda and summaries of readings.
6. Beth: Provide a list of government programs available to children with autism. Provide a description of the decision making process used when determining a treatment is experimental (for next meeting). Provide a draft copy of the exceptions policy and case management information (for July 16 meeting).

Materials will be forwarded to Donna. Donna will e-mail materials for the next meeting 1 ½ weeks in advance.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Autism will be held Friday, June 25 from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. in room 201 SE, State Capitol.

Agenda Items for the Next Meeting:

1. Discussion of activities included in service time under in-home intensive component of program.
 - Review problems identified at last meeting.
 - Evaluate possible solutions identified at last meeting.
 - Draft recommendations.
2. Discussion of options for continuing to build a qualified workforce of in-home intensive service line staff.
 - Identification of problems.

- Discussion of possible solutions.
- 3. Discussion of options for ensuring adequate state coverage by in-home intensive treatment providers (both lead therapists and senior therapists).
 - Identification of problems.
 - Discussion of possible solutions.